

Fact Sheet

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment

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North Dakota Head Start

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment Highlights

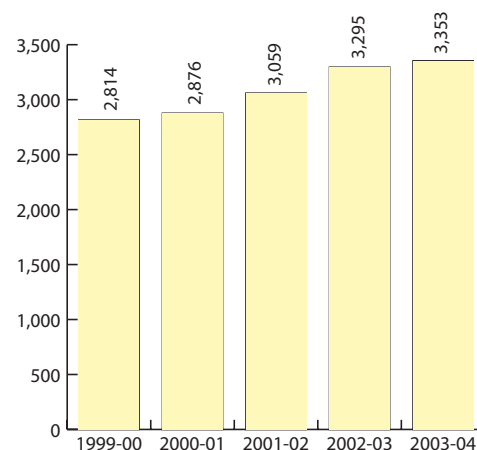
- Enrollments are growing
- Increasing numbers of younger children are enrolled
- Eligibility is most often due to poverty
- Increasing numbers of minority children are enrolled
- Larger programs are in major urban areas and reservations



Enrollments are Growing

While the number of children in North Dakota has been decreasing, enrollment in North Dakota Head Start Programs increased from 1999 to 2004. The total number of children whose participation in Head Start programs was funded by ACF (Administration for Children and Families) dollars grew by 539 during these five years (from 2,814 to 3,353). In contrast, from 1999 to 2004, the number of children ages 0 to 5 in North Dakota decreased from 47,633 to 43,002. Because there is some small turnover in Head Start enrollment during each year, the actual number of children served by North Dakota Head Start is even larger than these numbers indicate.

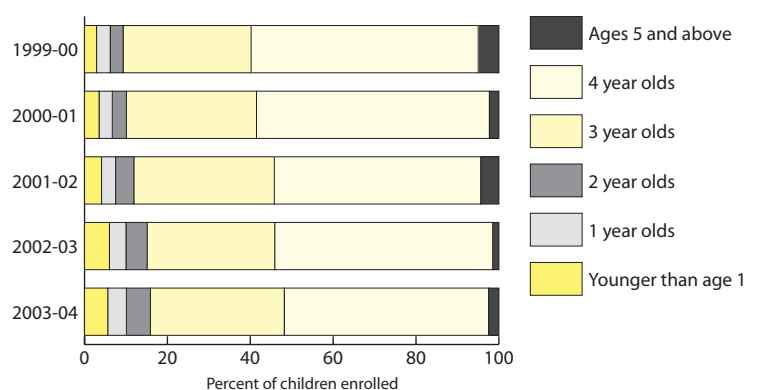
Figure 1. Total Funded Enrollment in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start, 1999-2004



Increasing Numbers of Younger Children are Enrolled

Since 1999, Head Start Programs have enrolled an increasing percentage of younger children. For example, while 4-year olds comprise the largest percentage of children in North Dakota Head Start Programs, they declined from 55% of Head Start children in 1999-00 to about 49% in 2003-04. Children younger than age 3 increased from a little more than 9% of all children in North Dakota Head Start Programs in 1999-00 to about 16% in 2003-04.

Figure 2. Percent of Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Age of Child, 1999-2004



Data Source and Note:

Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 1999-2004. Data in this fact sheet include pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start programs.

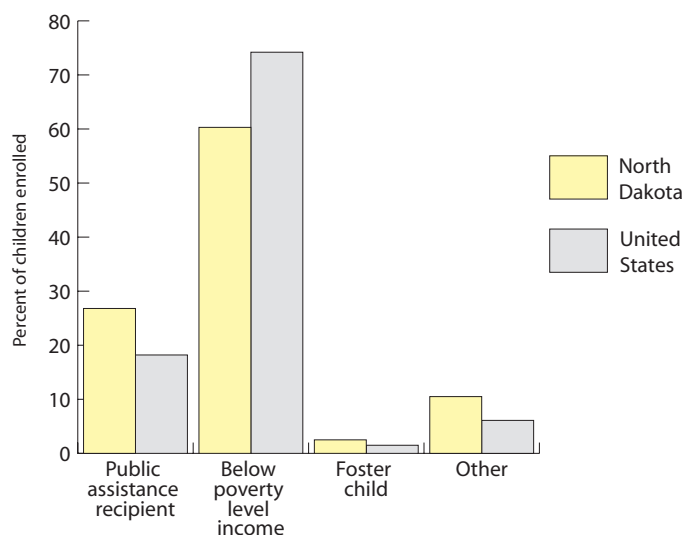
Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

Eligibility is Most Often Due to Poverty

Most children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start Programs were eligible because their family's income was below the federal poverty line. In 2003-04, this eligibility category accounted for 60% of the children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start. An increasingly large group of children (almost 27% of all enrolled) are eligible for North Dakota Head Start based on their parents' receipt of any form of public assistance. In contrast, about 18% of children in the nation's Head Start programs have this type of eligibility.

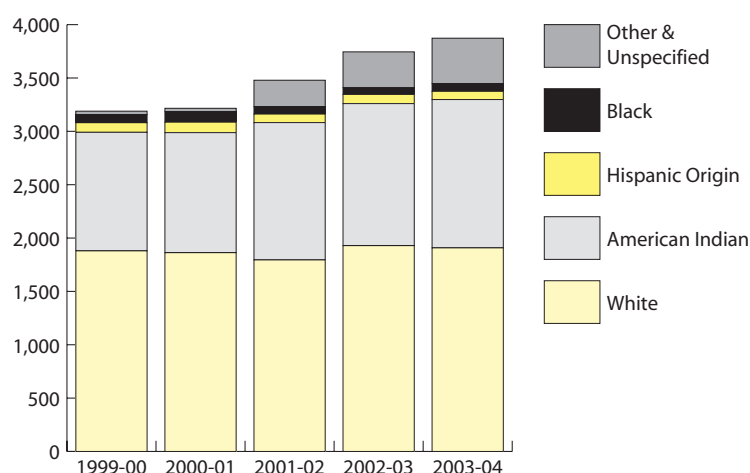
Figure 3. Percent of Children Enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in North Dakota and the United States by Eligibility Type, 2003-04



Increasing Numbers of Minority Children are Enrolled

Most children who are enrolled in North Dakota Head Start Programs are white, although white children are representing a decreasing percentage of Head Start children in the state. In 1999-00, about 59% of Head Start children were white, whereas in 2003-04 this declined to 49%. In contrast, American Indian children, who represented 8% of the state's children in 2003, comprised almost 36% of all Head Start children in North Dakota in 2003-04.

Figure 4. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1999-2004



Larger Programs are in Major Urban Areas and Reservations

In 2003-04, the largest North Dakota Head Start Programs were located in major urban areas, such as Fargo, Minot, and Grand Forks. However, large programs also were located on Turtle Mountain Reservation and Standing Rock Reservation.

Figure 5. Funded Enrollment in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Program Location, 2003-04

